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LETTER TO COMMISSION
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TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: February 7, 2012

SUBJECT: Lindemann Family Creativity Center opens at the Bass

This Letter to Commission is intended to provide you with information about an exciting new initiative at the Bass Museum of Art. On January 29, 2012, I attended the ribbon-cutting for the new Lindemann Family Creativity Center at the Bass Museum of Art. This new multi-purpose classroom (in the space formerly occupied by the museum gift shop) offers free activities for children and their parents every Saturday and Sunday during normal museum hours, with a certified art instructor guiding work and play activities that use art as a catalyst to develop Design Thinking skills.

Made possible by funding from Bass Museum Board Chair George Lindemann, the Knight Foundation, Miami-Dade County, The Children's Trust, PUMA. Creative and Debi and Jeff Wechsler, the Creativity Center will also host a variety of classes and workshops for the 2-3 year-old "Bass Babies", the 4-5 year-old "Bass Buddies" and the weekly adult art club, in addition to summer art camps and after-hours child care during winter, spring and summer breaks. Funding will also allow the Bass to offer scholarships to a full 50% of its summer campers.

Executive Director Silvia Cubina and Museum Board Chair George Lindemann continue to make great strides in establishing the Bass Museum as a national model for the integration of education into the standard art museum curriculum. Under their leadership the Bass has become a vital community asset of which we can all be proud. I would also like to congratulate them for their ongoing repurposing of underused spaces within the museum, which has produced the Egyptian Gallery and two other galleries in addition to the Creativity Center.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

JMG\HF\MAS\gf

c: Hilda Fernandez, Assistant City Manager
Max A. Sklar, Tourism and Cultural Development Director
Gary Farmer, Cultural Affairs Program Manager

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